

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following communication is in response to Applicant's amendment filed 14 February 2008.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10 are currently amended. Claims 3, 5 and 11-30 are cancelled. Claims 31-37 are previously withdrawn. Claims 38-53 are newly added. Therefore claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10 and 38-53 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10 and 38-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freishtat et al. (hereinafter Freishtat) U.S. Publication No. 2001/0037294 in view of Lucas U.S. Patent 6,996,538.

Regarding claims 1, 38 and 46, Freishtat teaches a method and system in a host data processing system for providing electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients, the method comprising:

Hosting, by the host, the first client and the second client, wherein the host provides storage, network connectivity, web hosting, and processing capability to both the first client and the second client (paragraphs 0055-0062);

Automatically determining, by the host, that a transaction is to be executed between the first client and the second client, wherein determining is made responsive to a request from the first client, and wherein parameters defining bounds in which the transaction takes place are determined by the first client (paragraph 0063 and paragraphs 0071-0076). Freishtat teaches that acts on behalf of the end user to execute any authorized transactions (paragraph 0063). Freishtat fails to explicitly state that the transaction is completed without any action required by either the first client or the second client. Lucas teaches an inventory control system and method in which a server automatically places orders, posts invoices and performs necessary administrative functions without action by either client (column 11, line 28 thru column 12, line 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Freishtat to include the teachings of Lucas because it allows for processing personal information and relieves some of the burden in terms of time, effort and learning curve when completing a transaction.

Claims 2, 39 and 47, wherein the host comprises a plurality of networked data processing systems (paragraphs 0056 and paragraphs 0064-0067).

Claims 4, 40 and 48, Freishtat teaches wherein the host provides billing and collection services (paragraph 0142-0146). Lucas teaches providing inventory management services, accounting services and pricing services (column 5, line 26-37 and column 11, lines 39 thru column 12, line 4).

Claims 6, 41 and 49, Freishtat teaches further comprising: identifying, by the host, the second client as a vendor of the first client and facilitating by the host, payment (paragraph 0142-0146). Lucas teaches identifying a second client which is a vendor of the first client and adjusting inventory records for the first client and second client (column 11, lines 28-52 and column 5, lines 26-37).

Claims 7, 42 and 50, wherein facilitating payment comprises: transferring appropriate sums from a first account belonging to the first client to a second account belonging to the second client (paragraph 0146).

Claims 8, 43 and 51, wherein negotiations resulting in a service level agreement between the host and the first client are automated (paragraphs 0061-0070).

Claims 9, 44 and 52, wherein a quantity of services provided is adjusted by the host based upon fulfillment of criteria specified by the first client (paragraph 0074-0078).

Claims 10, 45 and 53, further comprising subcontracting at least one of the storage, the network connectivity, the web hosting and the processing capability (paragraphs 0136-0137).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10 and 38-53 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEFANOS KARMIS whose telephone number is (571)272-6744. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 3693

Respectfully Submitted
/Stefanos Karmis/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3693
10 April 2008